



## July/August 2004- Volume 5

I think at last I have decided on the format that the continuing 'Photo History' will take and I hope it stands the test of time and that it does not end its days in a musty cupboard somewhere.

Catching up to date....

The last album (December 2003) was a bit of a mixed bag as within its covers were lots of older photos that seemed to 'pop-up' and demand to be entered. What could I say?

I now intend to keep to a more chronological order if still a random selection of interesting photos, notes, musings etc.

40 Years married on Monday just gone and it is a great feeling.

Two great kids with two great families and Mum still active and fun. Tonight we have the pleasure of going for a celebration meal at The West Lodge Park Hotel with DP, Angela and Beau-Phinneas, Angela's parents; David and Mary, Tammy, Ben and Larnie and Mum. Doreen (Ben's Mum) was working late and felt she would be too tired to join us and the 'boys' are in France with their grandparents. Drinks in the garden here and then a really great evening out.

Yesterday I went with Lynny to a fringe theatre production at The Chocolate Factory which included a meal at the adjacent restaurant before the show. We walked across the river from Lynn's office and back to London Bridge Station after. My child bride is unable to make use of the free travel afforded to us 'oldies' I hasten to add that she will join me in 'The Freedom of London travel' within 7 months.

Tammy presented us with a great painting triptych that we will get framed and hung upstairs. A much-appreciated thought. Ben has caught a few goldfish and our pond is now 'alive' again.

I think I will get photos of some of the old buildings and derelict sites that are very rapidly disappearing in London and they should be a much appreciated change from 'country shots' that seem to populate these books.

A few samples follow:





Close to London Bridge (Opposite 'The Chocolate Factory')





## The True Love of a Caterer



40 Years and ne're a cross word  
Is a sentence neither of us have ever heard  
But we both think that things aren't right  
If all around is sweetness and light  
We'd pay to improve our limited diction  
To spice our rows with extra friction  
But no-one I know loves his wife more  
And on that subject for England I can bore  
And who can convey his sweetest wish  
And have it fashioned in gerfilte fish  
So on our relationship life will never rain  
Cos on the platter was a bowl of chrane







After this are a few shots from the archive that I feel show different moods and times and seemed to be sitting there gathering dust. There are now thousands of shots that will be slowly inserted into the 'Photo History' in between the current shots and thoughts etc - otherwise they will never see the light of day. OK the sequence is not strictly chronological but life's like that it's a bitch isn't it.



Grovelands at sunset





A Walk in Forty Hall





THE  
OLD RECTORY  
MARTINHOE

July '04 A well-earned and totally-needed short break at The Old Rectory in Devon followed a really busy time. I have put together some shots that bring together all the images and great fun we crammed into that short break...it was marvellous...



The cliff top path above Woody Bay.....





At the water's edge at Matinhoe Manor





The strange almost-human outline of the cliffs below us.....



The coastal path going towards Lynton







The wonderful natural colours all around





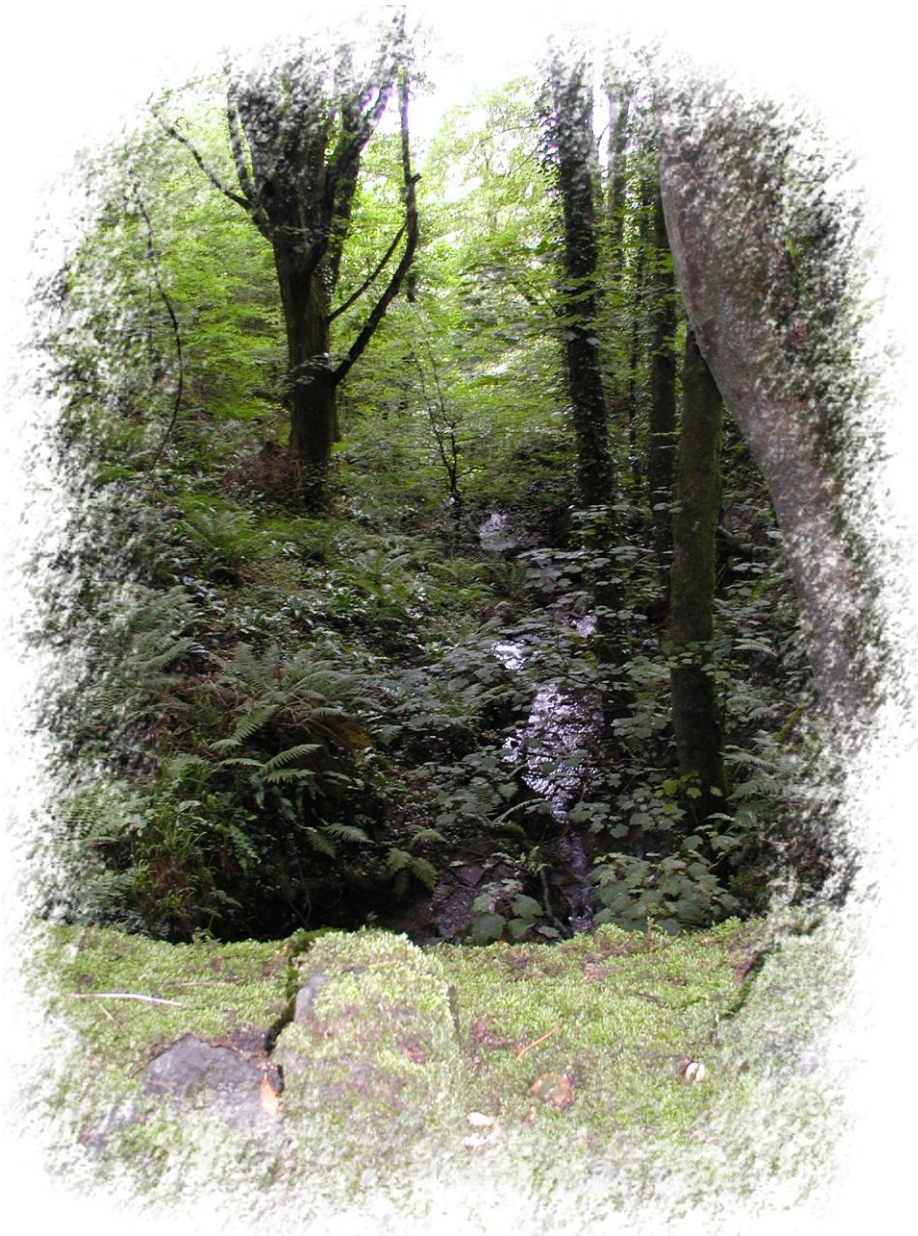
From the coastal path. Our favourite walk that we always seem to return to..











The wonderful mosses on the valley sides where the river flows steeply into the sea below







Emerging from the ferns in The Valley of The Rocks





THE  
OLD RECTORY  
MARTINHOE



The tranquil garden of the Old Rectory at Martinhoe



Lynton's latest acquisition - the modern state of the art fire fighting fleet



ready to speed to assist in fire control





Alongside the river on the walk to Heddon's Mouth









A snake basking in the sun on the river bank



Approaching the river's mouth through the steep valley





Heddon's Mouth - A favourite spot that Lynn and I really relate to. The river rushing through the stoney beach into the sea. The crashing waves and total 'at-one' with nature. Nothing spoils it and we always seem to walk there seeing only an occasional person and always having the secluded bay to ourselves.

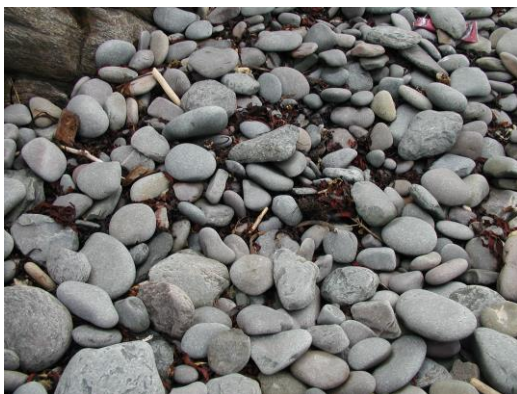






The great colours and shapes of the rocks and pebbles on the beach









The colourful harbour at Lynmouth





Fish, chips and seagulls on the beach.....







The tranquil walk from the top of Countisbury Hill (The Sandpiper Pub) across the tops and steeply down into the valley at Watersmeet





Strawberry picking and a great pub lunch and back to reality



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Angela, Beau-Phinneas and pooch July 29<sup>th</sup> 2004



A bouquet of organically grown flowers from Angela & DP



The proud father

Hydrangeas courtesy of David and Mary











The lad himself....grinning already





A toast before the family meal at West Lodge Park





Mobiles at Camden Market







The summerhouse was falling to bits so we had a new shed put at the back of the garden opposite the pond and slate-tiled the old summerhouse base and designed a pergola to cover it. The two vines seem to have taken well and we love having tea there. The view from our bedroom is great. The original pergola outside the back door which can be seen above is now so profusely covered with the vines etc that it is almost dark under it but it gives a great cool area to sit

at the table and enjoy a meal.



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And now onto the new idea...London shots of interest - some buildings that are falling down. Some unusual sights and a personal off-beat view of Ralph's London.....